

December 20, 1949

Mrs. R. E. McLain
Box 205
Chidler, Oklahoma

Dear Thelma:

Gertrude and I were always glad to hear from you because you were such a fine young woman.

As you know, our little boy, John, passed away very suddenly, March 21, 1928. I think that was shortly after you had left our home. Afterward Mother Reineke, Gertrude's mother, came to live with us and died in our home at the age of 95.

At the advice of physicians at the Mayo clinic at Rochester, Minnesota, Gertrude dieted and reduced her weight materially. Later, however, a malignant growth attacked her, and although she was twice operated, she passed away October 30, 1948. She did not give up hope of recover, or at least did not make it apparent that she no longer hoped, until a few weeks before she passed away. We lacked only about two weeks of having been married 54 years.

The children have all been kind and I have been fortunate in having a married couple with me. She is a college graduate and her husband is studying for his Masters Degree at the university. They have been with me for a year and I shall be very sorry when the time comes when they must leave.

I hope that you and yours are getting along fine. It doesn't seem possible that you have a boy of 20.

Blanche, our oldest, Mrs. Maloney, has three children, all of whom are married and her youngest daughter has a fine baby boy born October 12. My first and only great grandchild. Owen Maloney and Marrison Maloney are both married but have no children. Janet married L. A. McNalley and lives in Minneapolis, Kansas. Her two children, Mary Beth, a junior,